



Australia's
Global
University

Economic Evaluation Intellectual Disability Rights Service Criminal Justice Support Network

Arts & Social Sciences
Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support Program


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Dr Ruth McCausland
Dr Rebecca Reeve




https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/media/FASSFile/Economic_Evaluation_of_Criminal_Justice_Support_Network_2018.pdf

Criminal Justice Support Network (CJSN)

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- Advocacy service of the Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS)
 - Provides support for people with an intellectual disability at the police station and in court by:
 - helping the client to understand and exercise their legal rights
 - providing appropriate referrals to other services

Aims of economic evaluation of the Criminal Justice Support Network (CJSN)



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- Do court outcomes and costs differ for CJSN clients compared to people with intellectual disability who don't receive specialist support?
 - Is the CJSN cost effective?
 - What do pathways through the justice system look like with and without CJSN support?

Method 1 – matched samples

CJSN deidentified client data

- Criminal court outcomes; AVOs and breaches

Comparison data

- Mental Health Disorders & Cognitive Disability (MHDCD) in the Criminal Justice System Dataset:
 - linked administrative dataset of people who have been in the corrections system in NSW

Samples matched using Propensity Score Matching

- Finalised court outcomes and costs compared

Findings

- CJSN support generates significant cost savings through custodial sentences, supervised orders and AVO breaches avoided
- Overall, every \$1 invested in CJSN returns \$2.5 in cost savings to the justice system
- CJSN clients are three times as likely to be diverted into appropriate disability support by magistrates

Method 2 – comparative case study

CJSN data

- Deidentified case notes and client history - 'Byron'

Comparison data

- MHDCD Dataset case study – similar diagnosis and history
- Case studies
 - Both have intellectual disability, experienced neglect, trauma and out of home care as a child
 - At 20, paths diverge when Byron receives CJSN support
 - Criminal justice costs compared over next two years

Byron's unsupported pathway age 20-22

Increasing contact with the criminal justice system:

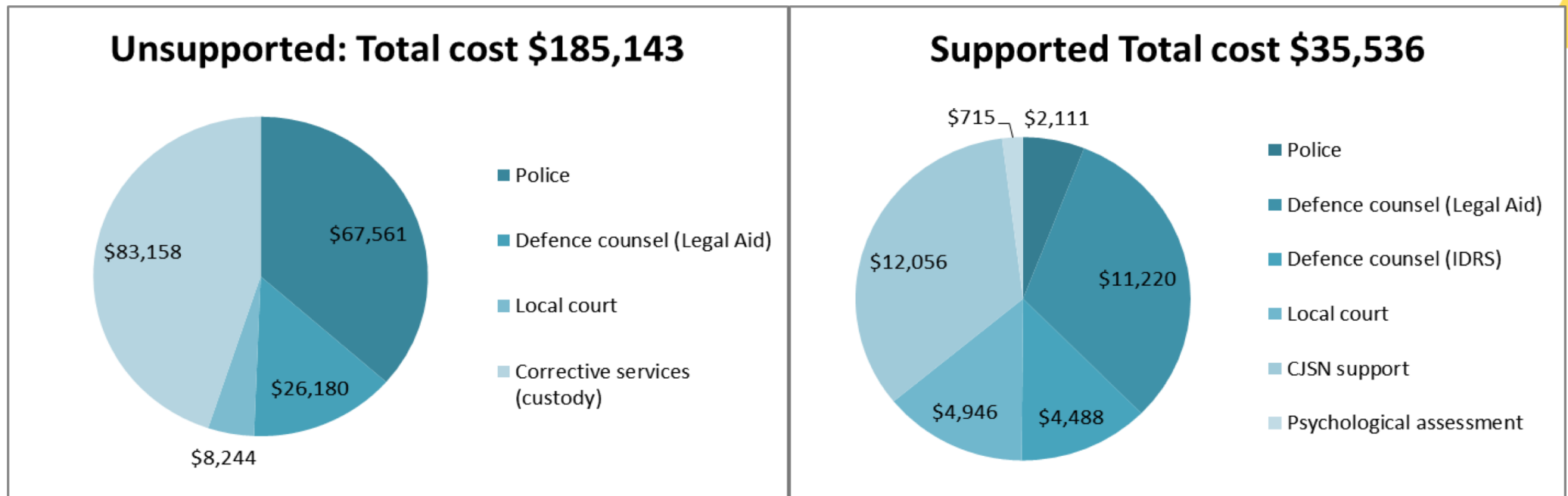
- ❖ 32 police incidents as a person of interest
- ❖ 19 charges: assault, theft, drug possession, breach of orders
- ❖ 5 court cases: 17 offences, 16 convictions, 4 custodial episodes
- ❖ Represented by 5 different Legal Aid solicitors
- ❖ Virtually no reference to his intellectual disability in police or other case notes

Byron's supported pathway age 20-22

Support staff and volunteers develop trusting relationship

- ❖ 22 instances of support provided by CJSN: briefing lawyers, arranging reports from services and psychological assessment
- ❖ IDRS legal team involvement results in fewer adjournments
- ❖ 1st matter: diversion order, specialist service provider, housing
- ❖ 2nd matter: no conviction as magistrate sees appropriate support
- ❖ 3rd matter: 12 month good behaviour bond
- ❖ No contact with police after first matter finalised

Unsupported vs supported pathway costs



Conclusions

- CJSN is a cost effective intervention for people with intellectual disability in the justice system
- Justice support can change the life trajectory of someone with intellectual disability by providing appropriate support
- Overall, every \$1 invested in CJSN returns \$2.5 in cost savings to the justice system